

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4630
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
OSD/ISA WASHED
OJCS (J5) WASHDC
CNO(OP-PY WASHDC
HQDA(SAMO-ZA WASHDC
HQUSAF(AF-CVA) WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, ASEC UN, UR
SUBJECT: CHERNYSHEV INCIDENT RAISED AT MILITARY STAFF COMMITTEE
(MSC) MEETING 21JULY 1977

REF: A. SOVIET LTR OF 11 JUL TO SYG (GA DOCUMENT A/
AC. 154/156; B. USUN 2209; C. USUN 2231; D. USUN 2241;
E. USUN 2286; F. USUN 2292; G. USUN 2311

1. SUMMARY: AS EXPECTED, SOVIETS RERAISED ISSUE OF
CHERNYSHEV INCIDENT VIA PREPARED STATEMENT READ JUST
PRIOR TO FORMAL OPENING OF MSC MEETING 21 JULY 1977. SOVIET
PLOY TO HAVE STATEMENT EMBODIED IN ACTUAL MINUTES OF MEETING DID
NOT SUCCEED, HOWEVER. WITH THE US REPLY, US CHALLENGE
TO THE ENGLISH-RUSSIAN TRANSLATION OF THAT REPLY, AND STATEMENTS
BY OTHER DELEGATIONS, THE NORMALLY 5 1/2 MINUE MEETING
LASTED 45 MINUTES. END SUMMARY.

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2. ON WEDNESDAY, 20 JULY 1977, COL JONES, (DPUTY
ARMY REPRESENTATIVE, US DELEGATION, UN MSC), WAS
ADVISED BY UN SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL (COL MONTEAGLE) THAT
SOVIET MSC DELEGATION WOULD BE MAKING A STATEMENT REGARDING
THE CHERNYSHEV INCIDENT AT THE MSC MEETING TO BE HELD NEXT
DAY, 21JULY 1977. MONTEAGLE STATED FURTHER THAT HE HAD BEEN

UNABLE TO LEARN SUBSTANCE OF STATEMENT TO BE MADE, BUT THAT SOVIET DELEGATION HAD "RELUCTANTLY" AGREED TO MAKING SUCH PRIOR TO, AND NOT DURING, ACTUAL MEETING. AS EXPECTED, ON 21 JULY 1977, SOVIET DELEGATION (LTC VOROBYEV) REQUESTED THE FLOOR FROM THE CHAIRMAN (HSU, PRC) PRIOR TO THE MEETING AND MADE A STATEMENT SUMMARIZED REPEAT SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS: THE SOVIET DELEGATION TO THE UN, MSC CONSIDERS IT NECESSARY TO STATE THE FOLLOWING: ON 07 JULY 1977, IN THE EVENING, NEAR HIS RESIDENCE, COL CHERNYSHEV, DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE USSR ARMED FORCES TO THE UN, MSC WAS SUBJECTED TO A PREMEDITATED, BANDIT-LIKE ATTACK BY TWO SO-CALLED UNKNOWN PERSONS WHO SAVAGELY BEAT HIM, CAUSING SERIOUS INJURIES AND THEREBY FORCING HIS RECALL TO THE SOVIET UNION PRIOR TO COMPLETING A NORMAL TOUR OF DUTY. THE SOVIET MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS HAS CALLED THE HOST COUNTRY'S ATTENTION TO THIS INCIDENT, WHICH WAS OBVIOUSLY PLANNED IN ADVANCE, AND HAS DEMANDED THAT SUCH PROVOCATIONS CEASE, THAT ADEQUATE PROTECTION BE AFFORDED SOVIET CITIZENS, AND THAT THE CULPRITS BE APPREHENDED AND PUNISHED. THE SOVIET DELEGATION MUST STATE, WITH REGRET, THAT SUCH ACTIONS DO NOT PERMIT THE SOVIET DELEGATION TO CARRY ON ITS NORMAL MSC DUTIES WHILE RESIDING IN HOST COUNTRY. THE SOVIET DELEGATION REQUESTS THAT THIS STATEMENT BE INCLUDED VERBATIM IN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING. END OF SUMMARY.

3. FOLLOWING THE SOVIET STATEMENT THE US REPRESENTATIVE
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(COL JONES) REQUESTED THE RIGHT OF REPLY AND READ, VERBATIM, INTO THE RECORD, THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT, APPROVED ON 20 JULY BY THE OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN, US DELEGATION TO THE UN MSC (VADM MOORER), AND BY ACTING CHIEF, POLITICAL SECTION, USUN:

" MR CHAIRMAN: I WOULD LIKE TO RESPOND TO THE COMMENTS OF LTC VOROBYEV OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION CONCERNING THE UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT INVOLVING A MEMBER OF THIS COMMITTEE. ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE US DELEGATION I WISH TO EXPRESS TO THE SOVIET DELEGATION AND TO THE VICTIM OF THE ATTACK, COLONEL CHERNYSHEV, MY DEEPEST REGRETS AND SYMPATHY, THE US GOVERNMENT DEPLORES AND CONDEMNS ALL SUCH SENSELESS AND IRRESPONSIBLE ACTS AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY, AND HOPES THAT THE CULPRITS CAN BE APPREHENDED AND BROUGHT TO JUSTICE".
END OF PREPARED STATEMENT. BECAUSE OF SOVIET ATTEMPT TO ENSHRINE ITS STATEMENT IN THE ACTUAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING, THE US REPRESENTATIVE MADE THE FOLLOWING (NEARLY VERBATIM) ADDITIONAL REMARKS: " IT IS MY DELEGATIONS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE SOVIET AND MY DELEGATIONS STATEMENTS WILL BE ENTERED VERBATIM AS ANNEXES OR APPENDICES TO THE MINUTES, AND NOT AS INTEGRAL PARTS OF THE MINUTES THEMSELVES. MY DELEGATIONS REASONS FOR SUCH AN UNDERSTANDING ARE THREE: FIRST, THE

MEETING HAS NOT YET BEEN OFFICIALLY CONVENED; SECOND, THIS SUBJECT IS NOT ON THE AGENDA FOR TODAY'S MEETING; AND THIRD - AND MOST IMPORTANT - MY GOVERNMENTS POSITION IS THAT THE COMMITTEE ON HOST COUNTRY RELATIONS IS A MORE APPROPRIATE FORUM THAT IS THE MSC FOR DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT, WHICH-IN-FACT ALREADY HAS BEEN DISCUSSED IN THAT FORUM. I WOULD LIKE TO ADD AND UNDERScore THE POINT, HOWEVER, THAT MY GOVERNMENTS POSITION ON THE PROPER PLACEMENT AND FORMAT OF THESE STATEMENTS IN NO WAY DETRACTS FROM THE VERY REALY SYMPATHY AND REGRET ALREADY EXPRESSED BY MY GOVERNMENT AND BY THIS DELEGATION. THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN, "END OF STATEMENT. THERE WAS NO SOVIET REPLY TO THIS STATEMENT.

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4. BRIEF SIMILAR STATEMENTS OF REGRET, AND SYMPATHY, AND WISHES FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY WERE MADE BY THE UK, FRENCH, AND CHINESE DELEGATIONS. IN NONE OF THESE WAS THERE ANY EXPLICIT OR IMPLICIT CRITICISM OF HOST COUNTRY BEHAVIOR. THE CHAIR RULED IN FAVOR OF THE US UNDERSTANDING THAT ALL STATEMENTS MADE WOULD BE RECORDED VERBATIM, BUT WOULD BE APPENDED TO, RATHER BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE MINUTES, IN THE CHAIRMAN'S WORDS" IN ACCORDANCE WITH PAST PRACTICE AND WITH THE RULES OF PROCEDURES FOR THIS COMMITTEE." IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE MEETING THE CHAIRMAN APPROACHED THE US REPRESENTATIVE TO "INSURE" THAT THE US DELEGATION REALIZE HOW "HELPFUL" THE CHAIR HAD BEEN. SINCE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT FOR THE CHAIR RO HAVE RULED OTHERWISE, IT APPEARED TO THE US REPRESENTATIVE THAT THIS APPROACH WAS SIMPLY A FAILY TYPICAL CHINESE ATTEMPT TO COLLECT - AT NO COST - A DIPLOMATIC IOU.

5. A SOMEWHAT AMUSING ASPECT OF THE MEETING WAS A DOUBLE OMISSION- NOTED BY THE US REP- BY THE ENGLISH-TO- RUSSIAN TRANSLATOR (A SOVIET CITIZEN) OF TWO "EMPHASIS" EXPRESSIONS WHEN TRANSLATING THE US REPLY INTO RUSSIAN FOR THE SOVIET DELEGATION. THE FIRST OMISSION WAS THE WORDS " AND MOST IMPORTANT" IN REFERRING THE THIRD REASON FOR US OPPOSITION TO INCLUDING THE STATEMENTS AS AN ACTUAL PART OF THE MINUTES. THE SECOND WAS OMISSION OF THE WORDS, "AND UNDERScore," WHEN THE US REPRESENTATIVE QUALIFIED THIS OPPOSITION. THE US REPRESENTATIVE INSISTED THAT THE APPROPRIATE PORTIONS OF THE US REPLY BE RETRANSLATED INTO RUSSIAN COMPLETELY AND CORRECTLY (WHICH THEY SUBSEQUENTLY WERE), SO THAT THE SOVIET DELEGATION WOULD HAVE IN ITS NATIVE TONGUE A FULLY ACCURATE ERENDITION OF THE US REPLY. THE "CORRECTION" INCIDENT SEEMED TO CAUSE ALMOST AS MUCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EMBARRASMENT AND CONSTERNATION TO THE SOVIET DELEGATION AS
IT DID TO THE UN SECRETARIAT PERSONNEL PRESENT, AND SERVED
SOMEWHAT TO RECOVER THE INITIATIVE SEIZED INITIALLY BY THE
SOVIET DELEGATION AND "DEFUSE" THE DISCUSSION.
YOUNG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: n/a
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